AMENDMENT

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original)   A method of generating a synthetic voice comprising:

receiving a user selection of a first text-to-speech (TTS) voice and a second TTS voice

from a plurality of TTS voices;

receiving at least one user-selected voice characteristic; and

generating a new TTS voice by blending the first TTS voice and the second TTS voice

and according to the user-selected voice characteristic.

2. (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

presenting the new TTS voice to the user for preview;

receiving user-selected adjustments; and

presenting a revised TTS voice to the user for preview according to the user-selected

adjustments.

3. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein generating the new TTS voice further comprises

interpolating between corresponding segment parameters of the first TTS voice and the second

TTS voice.

4. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the user-selected voice characteristic relates to

mis-pronunciations.

5. (Original)   The method of claim 3, wherein the segment parameters relate to prosodic

characteristics.

6. (Original)   The method of claim 5, wherein the prosodic characteristics are selected from a

group comprising pitch contour, spectral envelope, volume contour and phone durations.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the prosodic characteristics are further selected from a group comprising syllable accent, language accent, stress and emotion.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein blending the first TTS voice and the second TTS voice further comprises extracting a prosodic characteristic from the LPC residual of the first TTS voice and the LPC residual of the second TTS voice and interpolating between the extracted prosodic characteristics.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the prosodic characteristic is pitch, wherein the interpolation of the extracted pitches from the first TTS voice and the second TTS voice generates a new blended pitch.

10. (Original) A method of generating a synthetic voice, the method comprising:

receiving a user selection of a TTS voice and a voice characteristic; and

presenting the user with a new TTS voice comprising the selected TTS voice blended with at least one other TTS voice to achieve the selected voice characteristics.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

presenting the new TTS voice to the user for preview;

receiving user-selected adjustments; and

presenting a revised TTS voice to the user for preview according to the user-selected adjustments.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein generating the new TTS voice further comprises interpolating between corresponding segment parameters of the first TTS voice and the at least one other TTS voice.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the segment parameters relate to prosodic characteristics.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the prosodic characteristics are selected from a group comprising pitch contour, spectral envelope, volume contour and phone durations.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the prosodic characteristics are further selected from a group comprising: syllable accent, language accent, stress and emotion.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the blended voice is generated by extracting a prosodic characteristic from the LPC residual of the first TTS voice and the LPC residual of the second TTS voice and interpolating between the extracted prosodic characteristics.

17. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the user-selected voice is blended with a plurality of other TTS voices to generate the new TTS voice.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[18]] 16, wherein the prosodic characteristic is pitch and wherein the interpolation of the extracted pitches from the first TTS voice and the second TTS voice generates a new blended pitch.

20. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the voice characteristic relates to mis-pronunciations.

21. (Original) A system for generating a synthetic voice, the system comprising:

a module for presenting a user with a plurality of TTS voices to select at least one voice characteristic;

a module for receiving a user-selected first TTS voice, a user-selected second TTS voice, and at least one user-selected voice characteristic; and

a module for generating a new TTS voice by blending the first TTS voice and the second TTS voice and according to the user-selected voice characteristic.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the module that generates the new TTS voice

further interpolates between corresponding segment parameters of the first TTS voice and the

second TTS voice.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the segment parameters relate to prosodic

characteristics.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the prosodic characteristics are selected from a

group comprising pitch, contour, spectral envelope, volume contour and phone durations.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24, wherein the prosodic characteristics are

further selected from a group comprising: syllable accent, language accent, stress and emotion.

26. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein blending the first TTS voice and the second TTS

voice further comprises extracting a prosodic characteristic from the LPC residual of the first

TTS voice and the LPC residual of the second TTS voice and interpolating between the extracted

prosodic characteristics.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the prosodic characteristic is pitch, wherein the

interpolation of the extracted pitches from the first TTS voice and the second TTS voice

generates a new blended pitch.

28. (Original) A method of generating a text-to-speech (TTS) voice generated by blending at

least two TTS voices, the method comprising:

establishing a voice profile for each of a plurality of TTS voices, each voice profile

having speaker-specific parameters;

receiving a request for a new TTS voice from a user; and

generating the new TTS voice by blending speaker-specific parameters obtained from the

voice profiles for at least two TTS voices.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the speaker-specific parameters comprise at least prosodic parameters associated with each TTS voice.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the speaker-specific parameters further comprise speaker-specific pronunciations.

31. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the speaker-specific parameters are related to at least one of the group comprising: frame-based, phoneme-based, syllable-based and general characteristics.

32. (Original) A text-to-speech (TTS) voice generated from a method of blending at least two TTS voices, the method comprising:

establishing a voice profile for each of a plurality of TTS voices, each voice profile having speaker-specific parameters;

receiving a request for a blended TTS voice from a user; and

generating the blended TTS voice by blending speaker-specific parameters obtained from the voice profiles for at least two TTS voices.

33. (Original) The TTS voice of claim 32, wherein the speaker-specific parameters comprise at least prosodic parameters associated with each TTS voice.

34. (Original) The TTS voice of claim 33, wherein the speaker-specific parameters further comprise speaker-specific pronunciations.

35. (Original) The TTS voice of claim 34, wherein the speaker-specific parameters are related to at least one of the group comprising: frame-based, phoneme-based, syllable-based and general characteristics.